

REMARKS

Applicants submit that Rappaport does not contemplate "receiving a request including a proposed change comprising the addition of an additional subscriber station to the communications network "after the fixed wireless access communications network has initially *been deployed*" as claimed in Claim 1.

As stated in the previous response, Rappaport is concerned with planning the outlay of a fixed wireless network and consistently refers to a "wireless system performance prediction model" (emphasis added) and "designing wireless networks".

Rappaport describes in relation to Figure 3 (see column 7) that there are a number of solutions to interference problems which can be analyzed by a designer and states "one solution is to change the indoor systems antenna location or increase the transmitted power, add more nodes, or select a different frequency set." (column 7 lines 29 to 31). However, Rappaport also goes on to state that "these changes may be made with the simple click of a mouse in the method of the invention so that new channel sets, antenna locations or the alternative antenna systems that may be evaluated quickly" (column 7, lines 31 to 36).

Hence, it can be seen that the experimentation, such as changing the location of antennas, described in Rappaport is concerned with predicting how a communications network should initially be set up. Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would understand, on reading Rappaport, that once an indoor wireless system has been set up, there are few requirements for change and therefore would not even consider the fact that additional subscriber stations may be required.

In contrast, the present invention is concerned with fixed wireless access communications networks which may need to be altered in view of, for example, increased demand for the network.

With reference to Forssen, applicants submit that the combination of Rappaport and Forssen does not teach or even suggest the present invention as claimed in Claim 1.

Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would not consider combining Rappaport and Forssen. Forssen is concerned with a method of intra-cellular handover in a mobile network where addition of a mobile station connection to a base station interferes with the connection between a second mobile station being serviced by another base station. The mobile stations and base stations are able to perform downlink measurements and therefore can determine if any of the communications across channels are being disturbed. The base station, if it receives measurements indicating that the channel is disturbed, reassigns the mobile to a different channel if the interference caused by another mobile station is too high.

This method is required by mobile networks where mobile stations are constantly altering their positions and therefore the amount of interference with communications from other mobile stations. The method disclosed in Rappaport is for planning a fixed wireless access communications network which does not require the flexibility of a mobile communications network. Indeed, Rappaport does not even contemplate having to alter the setup of the fixed wireless communications network once it has been set up.

Applicants therefore submit that Claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of Rappaport in combination with Forssen et al.

Claims 17 and 18 claim a computer system and computer program arranged to carry out the steps of Claim 1. Applicants submit that Claims 17 and 18 would not have been obvious in view of the combination of Rappaport and Forssen et al for the reasons given above.

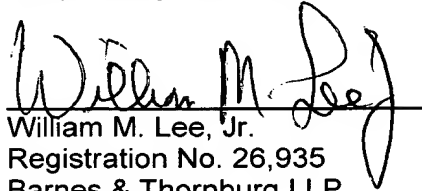
New Claim 21 has been added and comprises the combination of Claims 1, 5 and 14 indicated to be allowable on page 5 of the Office Action. The proper fee is tendered herewith.

Applicants submit that Claims 2 to 16 are allowable least by virtue of their dependencies.

Given the above, favorable reconsideration is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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